

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10, 13, and 17-20 have been amended. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice. New claim 27 has been added. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-27 remain in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 13-17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Abe. Abe discloses a brake member bracket having a concave inner surface defining a switch unit mounting recess 23 and an electrical switch unit inserted in the concave inner surface. A switch top cover 38 is screwed onto the brake lever bracket 5 to cover the concave inner surface. Claim 1, as amended, recites "wherein the recess has a shape which conforms to the outer periphery of the operation control button." Independent claims 3, 4, 5, 6, 13, 18 and 20 have a similar recitation. Abe does not disclose a recess having a shape that conforms to the outer periphery of the operation control button. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-6, 13, 18 and 20 are patentably distinguishable over Abe. Furthermore, none of the other cited references (Seimitsu, Hill, or Iteya) disclose a recess having a shape which conforms to the outer periphery of the operation control button. Claims 7-12, 14-17, 19 and 21-26 depend either directly or indirectly from one of the independent claims and contain additional features that further distinguish the claims from the cited references.

Claim 8, as amended, recites the operation control button having an attachment arm press fitted into the hole at the bottom surface of the switch mounting recess. The Office Action states that Abe discloses a switch mounting recess defining a hole therein, the control switch (20) having an attachment arm (33, 34) wherein the attachment arm is press fitted into the hole of the switch mounting recess. The Office Action does not identify the element that is deemed to be a hole in the recess. Applicant respectfully submits that Abe does not disclose a hole at the bottom surface of the switch mounting recess. Furthermore, Abe does not disclose an operation control button having an attachment arm. Finally, Abe does not disclose an attachment arm press fitted into the hole at the bottom surface of the switch mounting recess. Accordingly, claim 8 includes additional features that distinguish the invention from the cited references.

Claim 9 recites an "elastic outer cover at least partially surrounding the control switch wherein the elastic outer cover is press fitted into the switch mounting recess." Abe does not disclose an elastic outer cover at least partially surrounding the control switch. The push buttons (35, 36) equated to the elastic outer cover do not surround the control switch. Furthermore, the push buttons (35, 36) are positioned in the switch mounting recess and not press fitted therein. New claim 27 further adds "wherein the elastic outer cover is in frictional contact with and surrounded by a recess wall." Abe also does not disclose an elastic outer cover in frictional

contact with and surrounded by a recess wall. Accordingly, claims 9 and 27 are further distinguishable from the cited references.

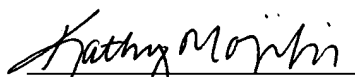
Claim 10 recites "a retention ring configured to restrict the movement of the control switch." Claim 11 further specifies that the retention ring is fastened to the casing. The Office Action identifies the seal 37 of Abe as the retention ring. Seal 37 does not restrict the movement of the control switch. It simply seals the gap between the switch top cover 38 and the bracket 5. Col. 3, lines 60-61. Furthermore, the seal is not fastened to the casing. Accordingly, claims 10 and 11 are further distinguishable over the cited references.

Claim 17, as amended, recites "wherein the casing defines a cable mounting recess therein." The Office Action identifies a notch 84 formed on the edge of the switch top cover 38 of Abe as a cable mounting recess. However, Abe does not disclose a cable mounting recess defined in the casing of the bicycle control device. Claim 19 further adds "wherein a portion of the connecting cable is mounted in the cable mounting recess." Neither Abe nor Iteya discloses a portion of the connecting cable mounted in the cable mounting recess. Accordingly, claims 17 and 19 are further distinguishable from the cited references.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of all rejections and a notice of allowance are respectfully requested. Should there be any questions regarding this application, Examiner Saether is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted

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Date


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS

1. (Amended) A bicycle control device for holding a computer switch having an operation control button with an outer periphery, the device comprising:
a top surface defining a recess therein, wherein the recess ~~forms a container~~ has a shape which conforms to the outer periphery of the operation control button.
2. Canceled
3. (Amended) A bicycle shift control device for holding a computer control switch having an operation control button with an outer periphery, the device[,] comprising:
a top surface defining a recess therein, wherein the recess is dimensioned to receive the computer control switch and has a shape conforming to the outer periphery of the operation control button.
4. (Amended) A bicycle brake control device for holding a computer control switch having an operation control button with an outer periphery, the device[,] comprising:
a top surface defining a recess therein, wherein the recess is dimensioned to receive the computer control switch and has a shape conforming to the outer periphery of the operation control button.
5. (Amended) A control device for holding a computer control switch having an operation control button with an outer periphery, the device comprising:
a brake control device;
a shift control device integrated with the brake control device;
a casing encompassing the brake control device and the shift control device, wherein the casing defines a recess therein; and
wherein the recess is dimensioned to receive the computer control switch and has a shape conforming to the outer periphery of the operation control button.
6. (Amended) A bicycle control device, comprising:
a casing defining a switch mounting recess; and
a control switch mounted in the switch mounting recess, wherein the control switch comprises an operation control button having an outer periphery and the switch mounting recess has a shape conforming to the outer periphery of the operation control button.
7. (Amended) The bicycle control device of claim 6 wherein the control switch is attached in the switch mounting recess by an adhesive.
8. (Amended) The bicycle control device of claim [7] 6 wherein the switch mounting recess comprises a bottom surface and the bottom surface defines a hole therein, the [control switch] operation control button having an attachment arm made of an elastic material, wherein the attachment arm is press fitted into the hole of the switch mounting recess.

9. (Amended) The bicycle control device of claim [7] 6 further comprising an elastic outer cover at least partially surrounding the control switch wherein the elastic outer cover is press fitted into the switch mounting recess.

10. (Amended) The bicycle control device of claim [7] 6 further comprising a retention ring configured to restrict the movement of the control switch.

11. The bicycle control device of claim 10 wherein the retention ring is fastened to the casing.

12. The bicycle control device of claim 11 wherein the retention ring is threadingly engaged with the switch mounting recess.

13. (Amended) A bicycle control assembly for holding a control switch for a computer, the control switch having an operation control button with an outer periphery, the bicycle control assembly[,] comprising:

a control device having a casing defining a switch mounting recess therein;
wherein the switch mounting recess is dimensioned to receive the control switch and has a shape conforming to the outer periphery of the operation control button.

14. The bicycle control assembly of claim 13 wherein the control device comprises a shift control device.

15. The bicycle control assembly of claim 13 wherein the control device comprises a brake control device.

16. The bicycle control assembly of claim 13 wherein the control device comprises a shift control device and a brake control device.

17. (Amended) The bicycle control assembly of claim 13 wherein the casing defines a cable mounting recess therein, the cable mounting recess is in communication with the switch mounting recess and extending from the switch mounting recess.

18. (Amended) A handlebar assembly controllable by the hand of a bicycle rider, comprising:

a handlebar having an end;
a hand grip attached to the end of the handlebar;
a control device attached to the handlebar proximal the hand grip such that the rider's hand can reach the control device while remaining on the hand grip, the control device defining a switch mounting recess therein;
a control switch mounted in the switch mounted recess of the control device, wherein the control switch comprises an operation control button having an outer periphery and the switch mounting recess has a shape conforming to the outer periphery of the operation control button;
a cycle computer attached to the handlebar, separate from the control device; and
a connecting cable electrically connecting the control switch to the cycle computer.

19. (Amended) The handlebar assembly of claim 18, wherein the control device further defines a cable mounting recess therein in communication with the switch mounting recess, wherein the cable mounting recess extends from the switch mounting recess in the direction of the cycle computer, and wherein a portion of the connecting cable is mounted in the cable mounting recess.

20. (Amended) A method of installing a control switch having an operation control button with an outer periphery, comprising the steps of:
providing a control switch and a control device defining a switch mounting recess therein, wherein the switch mounting recess is dimensioned to receive the control switch and has a shape conforming to the outer periphery of the operation control button; and
securing the control switch in the switch mounting recess.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the step of securing the control switch comprises adhesively attaching the control switch to the switch mounting recess.

22. The method of claim 20 further comprising the steps of:
providing an attachment arm connected to the control switch, wherein the attachment arm comprises an elastic material;
providing a bottom surface of the switch mounting recess, wherein the bottom surface defines a hole therein; and
press fitting the elastic material into the hole in the bottom surface of the switch mounting recess.

23. The method of claim 20 further comprising the steps of:
providing an elastic outer cover surrounding the control switch; and
press fitting the elastic outer cover into the switch mounting recess.

24. The method of claim 20 further comprising the steps of:
providing a retention ring; and
attaching the retention ring to the control device in a manner that restricts the movement of the control switch.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the step of attaching the retention ring to the control device includes fastening the retaining ring to a top surface of the control device.

26. The method of claim 24 wherein the step of attaching the retention ring to the control device includes threadingly engaging the ring with the switch mounting recess.

Please add the following new claim:

-- 27. The bicycle control device of claim 9 wherein the elastic outer cover is in frictional contact with and surrounded by a recess wall.--

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice.